

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MUSCAT 00172 090527Z

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ACTION SP-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 PC-01 AID-05 NSC-05 OMB-01 ABF-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 850

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MUSCAT 172

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, MU

SUBJECT: PEACE CORPS 1976 BUDGET

REF: STATE 14799

1. SENTIMENTS EXPRESSED IN PARAS 2 AND 3 REFTEL ACCURATELY REFLECT EMBASSY MUSCAT'S ANALYSIS OF SITUATION IN OMAN. PEACE CORPS IS ONLY GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT PROGRAM WE HAVE GOING AT THIS TIME (EXCLUDING MINOR FMS CASES WHICH FISCALLY BENEFIT USG). EVALUATION OF OMANGOV CONTRIBUTION IN CASH AND IN KIND SHOWS THAT OMANI INPUT EQUAL TO ABOUT 33 PERCENT OF FY 75 PROGRAM COSTS. ASSUMING SAME (OR POSSIBLY REDUCED) PEACE CORPS BUDGET AMOUNT FOR FY 76 AND EFFECT OF LOCAL INFLATION (ESPECIALLY IN RELATION TO SKYROCKETING COST OF HOUSING), OMANGOV PARTICIPATION IN FY 76 APT TO INCREASE IN PERCENTAGE TERMS.

2. DETAILED PLANS FOR HANDLING ANTICIPATED BUDGET CUTS WILL BE PREPARED AND PRESENTED BY ACTING DIRECTOR OF PEACE CORPS. MEANTIME, SHE WILL PURSUE ONE IDEA FOR POSSIBLY OBTAINING AN ADDITIONAL OFFSET CONTRIBUTION FROM OMANGOV. AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION OF ISSUES INVOLVED, AMBASSADOR AND PCD AGREE THAT ANY GENERAL APPEAL FOR FURTHER OMANI CONTRIBUTIONS WOULD BE INADVISABLE.

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